

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8970

S E C R E T CAIRO 7179

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, EG, UR

SUBJ: NEGATIVE REPORT ON MIG 23'S IN EGYPT

1. DEPUTY TASS DIRECTOR IN CAIRO YEDRASHNIKOV STATED SEPT. 16 THAT ABSOLUTELY NO MIG 23'S HAD BEEN DELIVERED BY SOVIET UNION TO EGYPT. HE ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED NO EQUIPMENT OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY NATURE TO BE DELIVERED BEFORE EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN OCTOBER. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LIMITED DELIVERIES OF SMALL ARMS HAVE ARRIVED IN EGYPT RECENTLY, AND THESE WERE PART OF A "PACKAGE ARRANGEMENT" PRIOR TO FAHMY'S VISIT.

2. YEDRASHNIKOV WAS PRODDED ON QUESTION OF MIG 23'S ON SEPT 11 AND ABOVE INFORMATION WAS CLEARLY VOLUNTEERED AS AN AUTHORIZED REPLY. HE DID NOT ANSWER DIRECT QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MIG 25S WERE PART OF POSSIBLE FUTURE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN USSR AND EGYPT, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT EGYPTIAN HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN MIG 25'S FOR THREE YEARS.

3. CONCERNING FAHMY VISIT TO MOSCOW, YEDRASHNIKOV VOLUNTEERED THAT SOVIETS EXPECT TO LISTEN TO WHAT GOE HAS IN MIND, BUT ANY HARD DECISION ON AID WOULD PROBABLY OCCUR DURING OR AFTER A VISIT OF A SECOND EGYPTIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY HEGAZI OR MINWAR. HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THIS MIGHT OCCUR.

EILTS

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